

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A coupling structure, comprising:

a shaft body:

a shaft joint including an engagement groove with which the shaft body is engaged, a shaft joint body with two bores facing the engagement groove, and a locking body press-fitted into one of the bores; and

a coupling shaft for coupling the shaft body and the shaft joint by being inserted into the bores and locked with the locking body,

the shaft joint further including:

a regulating tongue for regulating movement of the shaft body;

a plate body having a supported portion extending from a curved portion of a plate body and supported between the locking body and the shaft joint body; and

a plate body having a projection projecting from the supported portion extending from the curved portion of the plate body, superposed between surfaces of the locking body and the shaft joint body, and having a projection,

wherein ~~at least~~ one of the shaft joint body and the locking body has a recessed portion into which the projection is fitted.

2. (Currently amended) The coupling structure ~~of a shaft body and a shaft joint~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the projection has hardness higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body.

3. (Currently amended) The coupling structure ~~of a shaft body and a shaft joint~~ according to Claim 2, wherein the projection is made of spring steel with hardness higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body.

4. (Currently amended) The coupling structure ~~of a shaft body and a shaft joint~~ according to Claim 3, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore of the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

5. (Currently amended) The coupling structure ~~of a shaft body and a shaft joint~~ according to Claim 2, wherein the projection is formed of a material with hardness not higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body, and the hardness of the projection is made higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body by applying surface treatment.

6. (Currently amended) The coupling structure ~~of a shaft body and a shaft joint~~ according to Claim 5, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore of the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

7. (Currently amended) The coupling structure ~~of a shaft body and a shaft joint~~ according to Claim 2, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore of the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

8. (Currently amended) The coupling structure ~~of a shaft body and a shaft joint~~ according to Claim 1, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore of the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

9. (Currently amended) The coupling structure ~~of a shaft body and a shaft joint~~ according to claim 2, wherein the projection is formed of a material having a first hardness less than or equal to a hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body, the hardness of the projection is increased to a second hardness greater than the hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body by applying a surface treatment.

10. (New) A coupling structure, comprising:

a shaft body:

a shaft joint including an engagement groove with which the shaft body is engaged, a shaft joint body with two bores facing the engagement groove, and a locking body press-fitted into one of the bores; and

a coupling shaft for coupling the shaft body and the shaft joint by being inserted into the bores and locked with the locking body,

the shaft joint further including:

a regulating tongue for regulating movement of the shaft body;

a plate body having a curved portion; and

a supported portion extending from the curved portion of the plate body, superposed between surfaces of the locking body and the shaft joint body, and having a projection,

wherein both the shaft joint body and the locking body have a recessed portion into which the projection is fitted.

11. (New) The coupling structure according to Claim 10, wherein the projection has hardness higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body.

12. (New) The coupling structure according to Claim 11, wherein the projection is made of spring steel with hardness higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body.

13. (New) The coupling structure according to Claim 12, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore of the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

14. (New) The coupling structure according to Claim 11, wherein the projection is formed of a material with hardness not higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body, and the hardness of the projection is made higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body by applying surface treatment.

18. (New) The coupling structure according to Claim 11, wherein the projection is formed of a material having a first hardness less than or equal to a hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body, the hardness of the projection being increased to a second hardness greater than the hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body by applying a surface treatment.